

Message Text

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43

ACTION CU-03

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STATE FOR CU/EE, EUR/SOV; INR/OIL; USIA FOR IEU

3.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SEDU, UR, PFOR

SUBJECT: SOVIET SCHOLARS TO ATTEND CONFERENCE OF ASSOCIATION FOR
THE STUDY OF AFRO-AMERICAN LIFE AND HISTORY

1. IGOR ALEKSANDROVICH GEYEVSKIY, CHIEF OF SECTION
ON MASS MOVEMENTS AT USA INSTITUTE, TOLD EMBOFF
RECENTLY THAT FOUR-MEMBER DELEGATION REPRESENTING U.S.
ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY OF AFRO-AMERICAN LIFE AND
HISTORY HAD VISITED MOSCOW IN JANUARY AS GUESTS OF
SOVIET FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY. GEYEVSKIY TOLD EMBOFF
DELEGATION HEAD WAS WILLIAM P. ROBINSON.

2. DURING COURSE OF STAY IN USSR, GROUP VISITED USA
INSTITUTE TO MET WITH SOVIET SPECIALISTS ON AMERICAN
SOCIETY, OF WHICH UP TO FOUR WOULD LATER BE INVITED
TO VISIT US TO PARTICIPATE IN ASSOCIATION'S BICENTENNIAL
CONFERENCE PLANNED FOR JULY IN CHICAGO. VISITORS
LEFT LARGE PACKET OF MATERIALS DESCRIBING PAST
CONFERENCES. EMBOFF EXAMINED THESE BRIEFLY BUT WAS
UNABLE TO DETERMINE IF ASSOCIATION AND ITS CONFERENCE
WERE OF SERIOUS SCHOLARLY QUALITY.

3. GEYEVSKIY INDICATED THAT ASSOCIATION HAS TO DATE NOT SENT
INVITATIONS OR COMMUNICATED IN ANY WAY WITH USA INSTITUTE
SCHOLARS WHO ARE, NATURALLY, VERY INTERESTED IN ATTENDING

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CONFERENCE.

4. GEYEVSKIY ASKED IN VERY INFORMAL MANNER, BYPASSING INSTITUTE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY IVANYAN, IF EMBOFF COULD ASSIST IN CLARIFYING WHETHER SOVIET SCHOLARS ARE INDEED BEING INVITED. ASSOCIATION AND ITS ACTIVITIES ARE UNKNOWN TO EMB. REQUEST BRIEF EVALUATION OF ASSOCIATION'S PLACE IN AMERICAN SCHOLARLY COMMUNITY. IF THIS IS SERIOUS ORGANIZATION DEVOTED TO FURTHERING SCHOLARSHIP IN BLACK STUDIES, AND IF DEPT CONSIDERS IT APPROPRIATE TO FACILITATE CONTACTS BETWEEN IT AND SOVIET SCHOLARS, EMB PREPARED TO ASSIST IN TRANSMISSION OF INVITATIONS. ADVISE. ASSOCIATION OFFICES LOCATED AT 1404 FOURTEENTH STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, D.C. TELEPHONE: 667-2822. BREMENT

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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